Introduction of Agriculture Credit Card Scheme in Uttar Pradesh

*87. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector banks have introduced an Agriculture Credit Scheme in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the named of the districts selected under this scheme;

(c) whether Government propose to implement this scheme in all the districts of the State; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to Agriculture Credit Card Scheme of the public sector banks. Such Schemes have been introduced by banks in selected districts of a number of States. These cards are given to farmers who have a good track record to enable them to get agricultural credit without difficulty and to meet their cost of production inputs. The Government of India had suggested to the public sector banks in April, 1988 to consider launching of the Credit Card Scheme for farmers and the banks have been taking steps in that direction. As reported by the Reserve Bank of India and the public sector banks, in the State of Uttar Pradesh, State Bank of India Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India, Union Bank of India, United Bank of India, Dena Bank, Allahabad Bank, Syndicate Bank, UCO Bank, and Bank of India have introduced Agriculture Credit Cards in selected districts where they have semi-urban and rural branches of their banks. The information about the branches of the banks implementing the above scheme in Uttar Pradesh and the districts in which they are located is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Postal facility in the villages of M.P.

*88. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in the State of Madhya Pradesh which are without Post Offices or even without letter boxes at present; and

(b) by when Government propose to open post offices in all the villages in Madhya Pradesh having population of more than one thousand and provide letter boxes in all the villages of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Post Offices in the rural areas are opened keeping in view the population, income and distance norms prescribed for the purpose. As far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned there are 62,047 villages without post offices. Of these, 23, 389 villages are provided with letter boxes and remaining 38658 are without . Efforts are being made to provide Letter-boxes in maximum number of villages. In the first phase, villages with population of 1000 and above will be provided with letter-boxes progressively and in the next phase, other villages with population of 500 and above and those below 500 but having no letter box within a distance of 1 km. will be provided with letter boxes progressively. As far as opening of post offices in villages with population of 1000 and above is concerned, there is no such proposal, as opening of post offices is based on certain norms. It may, however, be stated that as per 1981 Census the average population served per post office in Madhya Pradesh is 4,753 as against the All India average of 4,607.

Provision of Instrument Landing System at all airports in the country

*89. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the cost of providing Instrument Landing System at all airports in the country;